

Docket No. 2001-005-DSK

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR INSTANT COPY OF DATA

5 A system is provided to support dynamically changeable virtual mapping schemes in a data processing system. The present invention separates processing of data unit requirements from the selection of which storage subsystems to use for storage by using a storage 10 methodologies inventory. A stored data management subsystem contains one or more hosts. A plurality of data storage elements is functionally coupled to the one or more hosts. The plurality of data storage elements is organized using a plurality of layers of mapping tables. 15 The plurality of layers of mapping tables provides unique identification of location of the data such that individual data entries in a mapping table is variable and self-defining with respect to the amount of data managed. In addition, the present system provides 20 various instant copy mechanisms for copying data upon receiving a write operation to either a source or copy data. The instant copy mechanisms may be selected based on the type of mapping originally used to store the data that is to be copied.

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OCT 20 2001